

Pulitzer-Prize-Winning Author Highlights Hispanic Heritage Month

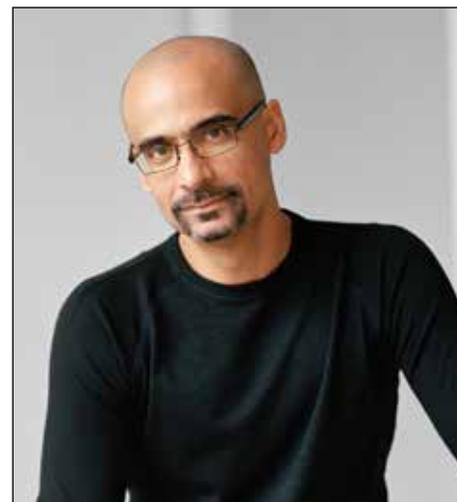
Junot Díaz, who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, will speak at Middlesex County College on Friday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Admission is free but reservations are required. Visit Middlesexcc.edu/student-activities/junotdiaz to RSVP.

“We are thrilled that Junot Diaz will be here as a keynote speaker during our celebration of Hispanic Heritage,” said Marla Brinson, dean of student affairs.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear from such a critically acclaimed author.”

Mr. Díaz is the author of “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao,” which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; “Drown”; and “This Is How You Lose Her,” a New York Times bestseller and National Book Award finalist.

He was also awarded a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. A graduate of Rutgers, Mr. Díaz is currently the fiction editor at “Boston Review” and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute

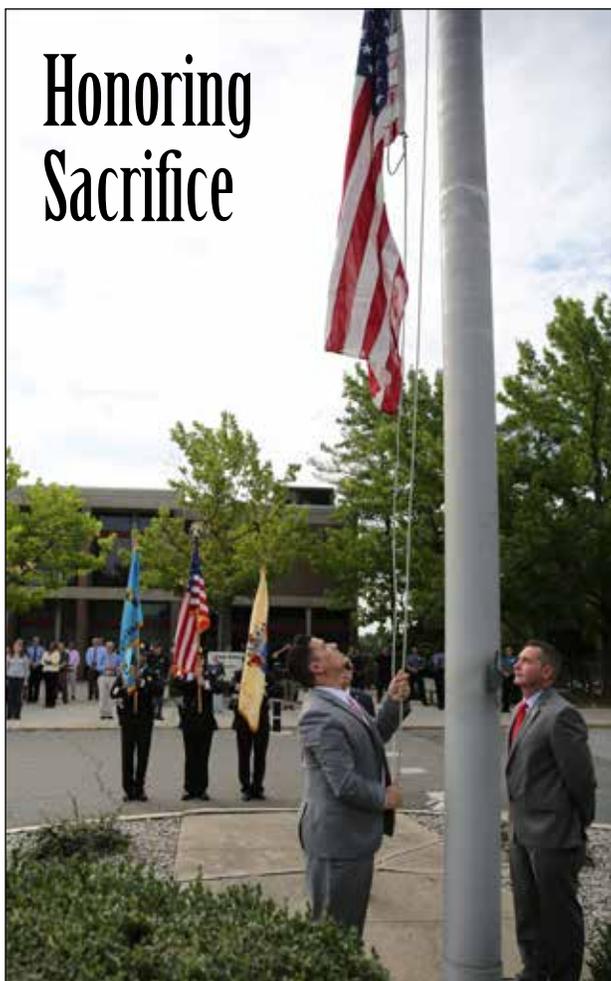


Junot Díaz

of Technology. He was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey.

Mr. Díaz will discuss his career as an award-winning author and advocate of social justice.

Honoring Sacrifice



MCC honored those killed on 9-11, as well as first responders, military veterans and service members on the 15th anniversary of the tragedy. The program included raising of the flag, assisted by the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard, as well as speeches from Sam Olesinski, a veteran and MCC student; and Luke Agojo, veteran and president of the Student Government Association. Student Maurice Easter played a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem on his saxophone.

Disabilities Awareness Day Autism Keynote on Oct. 24

MCC's Disability Awareness Day, an annual event examining all aspects of disabilities, will look at autism this year. The program is Monday, October 24 in the College Center and is open to the College community. Organizers are hoping faculty will bring their classes.

The keynote speaker is Jed Baker, a well-known psychologist who lectures on helping others understand autism. Dr. Baker is the author of several books and writes and lectures

extensively on autism.

"His lecture will focus on understanding autism to build acceptance within our community," said Elaine Weir-Daidone, counselor for students with disabilities. "The planning committee chose to focus on autism this year as we have an increasing number of students on campus with autism. Our hope is that this event will help raise awareness and understanding." His speech is at 11 a.m.

in the Performing Arts Center.

At 12:30 p.m., Dr. Baker will discuss teaching strategies in a workshop designed for faculty and staff. He will review Autism Spectrum Disorders to develop a working understanding of the disorder, and focus on the social interaction challenges that emerge and the impact on communication skills. Dr. Baker will review examples of behavior faculty may observe and look at teaching strategies that may be effective. The program is in Cafeteria C.

A documentary, "Autism in Love," will be shown in Cafeteria C at 2 p.m. It is a look at romantic relationships of four autistic individuals.

In addition, representatives of community agencies will be in the College Center hallways discussing ways in which they serve individuals with disabilities from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Notables

Professor Louis Dell'Omo from the Visual, Performing and Media Arts Department spent his third summer broadcasting live on the boardwalk in Asbury Park for 94.3 The Point (WJLK-FM) a Townsquare Media station in partnership with New Jersey Natural Gas and the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce. He conducted interviews and promoted festivals and other community events. The season concluded Labor Day Weekend with an exclusive interview with Danny DeVito. Mr. DeVito was taping footage for the television show Take Me Home, where celebrities give viewers tours of their home states. Danny DeVito was selected for New Jersey and he chose

his favorite town, Asbury Park. You can view a clip of the interview on Twitter @BlueColtRadio1.



Louis Dell'Omo with Danny DeVito

Alumnus Elected to Board

Kyler Dineen '16 was recently elected to the College's Board of Trustees. He will serve a one-year term as the alumni representative.

While a student, he founded the MCC Independents, a campus organization focused on reviewing politics from a nonpartisan standpoint.

Mr. Dineen majored in Small Business Management/Entrepreneurial Studies at MCC and transferred to Rutgers.

He is also the executive director of Land for the Homeless, a charity created after the Lakewood Tent City was shut down in 2014, to advocate for those who need shelter. Land for the Homeless is hoping to purchase a home to create a community in which the homeless can live in peace.

Mr. Dineen said his emphasis as an MCC board member is to emphasize budget efficiencies.

"There are some really positive people at MCC," he said. "I want to look at improvements that can be made to make MCC a better place."

THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College
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New Library Director Promotes a Love of Learning

Marilyn Ochoa brings a diverse background to her new position as Library director, but all her jobs have had one ingredient in common: an emphasis on learning and research. “I’m inspired by research,” she said.

She earned a B.A. from La Salle University and worked as an ethics program specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., identifying violations of ethics and conduct standards by government officials during the Bill Clinton presidency.

“That’s when I developed a deep interest in research, organizing information, and teaching,” she says.

So it was back to school, at the University of Pittsburgh for a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science, before working for the University of Florida Smathers Libraries, where she held numerous librarian positions.

Along with her primary role to help students and faculty become effective researchers and information users, her responsibilities over her 12 years there included teaching honors classes in information literacy and research; developing a collaborative, technology-integrated library environment (InfoCommons); and serving as the lead usability consultant on several federally funded grants to develop digital collections of rare and historic materials held by the libraries.

Among her favorite assignments were engaging with faculty to support teaching and research, working with new English-language learners, and conducting research with her faculty colleagues.

Ms. Ochoa then became the associate director for Penfield Library at the State University of New York at Oswego, where she was in charge of the reference, instruction, and special collections units, as well as the facility.

Some notable projects include leading development of an institutional



Marilyn Ochoa

repository, a searchable online archive for the digitized holdings of the College’s Special Collections unit and the intellectual output of the college community.

She also oversaw development of a Makerspace program, where the library offered opportunities for people with interests in 3D printing, art or sciences to meet, learn, play and create. The goal was for people to collaborate and develop projects using a variety of technologies, tools and materials creatively in a supportive but informal learning environment.

She started as the MCC director in August.

“I have wonderful colleagues in the MCC Library,” she said. “It’s a fantastic team.”

Ms. Ochoa said she is learning about the College and the MCC Library before planning its direction, but would like to make sure the community feels welcome.

“They are invited to come in and take advantage of all our resources – books, databases and online materials, computer labs, individual and group

study rooms, as well as our library staff, who are ready to help,” she said.

Mark McCormick, vice president of academic and student affairs, said he is very pleased Ms. Ochoa has joined the College.

“I am particularly impressed with Marilyn’s experience in engaging and supporting instructors and students with exciting new technologies and approaches to providing library services,” he said. “We also welcome Marilyn’s collaborative spirit in helping to guide our wonderful Library to new levels of excellence.”

Ms. Ochoa is a former board member of the Association of College & Research Libraries and is currently on the executive board of the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education.

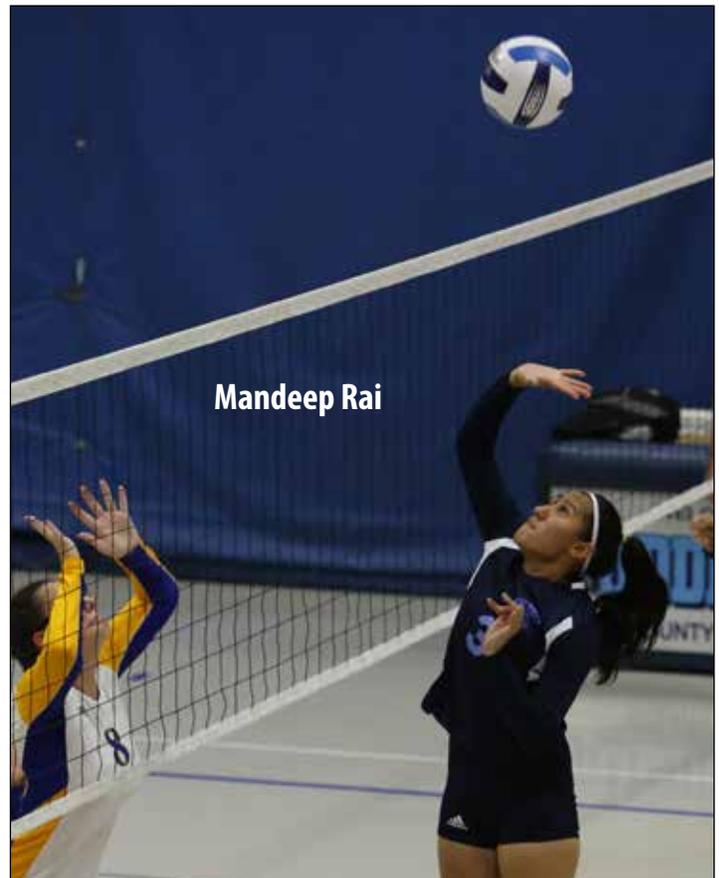
“Throughout my career, I’ve honed my research and technology skills,” she said. “I’ve seen the positive impact a librarian can have on student learning, research, and overall success. It’s an honor to be able to help them, and support and partner with them.”



Ciara Alston scoring the first of MCC's four goals against Bucks County Community College.



Idrissa Kamara



Mandeep Rai



From left: John Lambino, Brandon Rodriguez, Ben Harder, Andrew Katz, Miguel Hernandez.

Sports Update

The Men's Soccer team has had a great start to the season, with a 6-2 record (5-1 in the Region). The Cross Country squad is getting ready for Region 19 Championships that take place on October 30th. The Women's Soccer team is 3-1-1 in Region 19 play. They turn their focus on the Region XIX tournament which houses two bids to the national tournament. Volleyball is in full swing. The team won two of their last four matches. They have their sight set on qualifying for the playoffs.